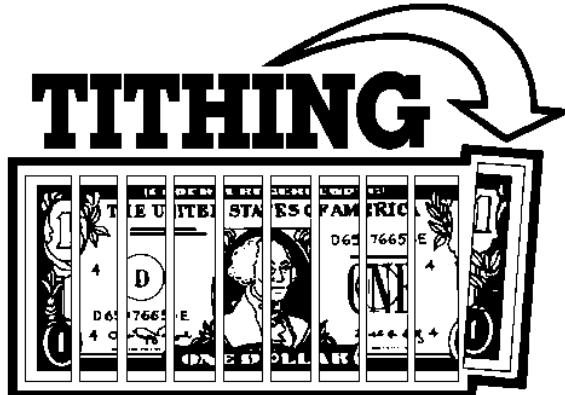


## A Church's Footprint in the Community

1.

### The Tithing Guilt Trip

I have lost count to the number of times I have heard religious leaders attempt to send people on guilt trips to induce them to tithe. The Internet is replete with examples.



2.

### A Ten Percent Rule for Churches

No church that I ever heard of commits itself to tithing from its weekly collections to a special program to benefit the local community. It might be nice to know that each time I put a dollar in to a collection basket that a dime will be spent on the local community.



3.

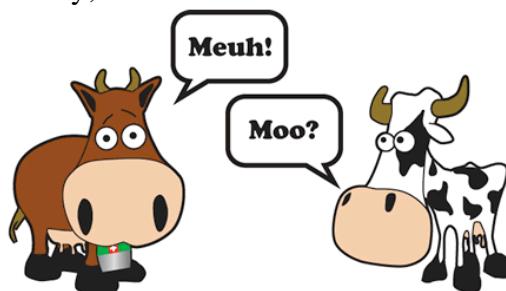
### Church's Footprint in the Community

Most churches would not be missed by their surrounding community, were they to vanish. For years I have found it disturbing that so many churches find it more compelling to spend money outside the community and often outside the state or country than to spend it in the surrounding neighborhood.



#### 4. **Benefitting the Local Community**

A church could sponsor a **bicycle club** for kids. It could help kids who cannot afford bicycles have one. It could organize bicycle trips, bike repair seminars, and safety programs. It could sponsor a **homework club** where kids could be matched with a person who would help them. It could sponsor an **English as a Second Language program for adults** and it could hire qualified people to teach. It could sponsor a **distance learning center**. It could sponsor a **weekly cleanup crew** to clean busted glass and junk from neighborhood sidewalks. Kids that volunteer could have free pizza and games. But instead most churches seem to make sure their money is not spent locally. There is nothing wrong with helping people in Peru, Mexico, China, etc. But, when there is so much that could be done locally, I wonder about our motives.



#### 5. **Hypothetical Bicycle Club for Kids**

**Since this is hypothetical**, let's have a bicycle club for kids. I will call it the **"Follow the Leader Bicycle Club."** You might be amazed at how many adults will show up to have a group to ride with or just to help out on the trips.



**J**ordan Thorston, 9, prepares to ride his new bike Wednesday evening to Hammel Woods from the Ski & Bike Chalet on Jefferson Street in Shorewood. The Joliet Bicycle Club purchased and donated 12 bikes for children participating in Big Brothers Big Sisters of Will & Grundy Counties. Children in the organization's One-to-One mentoring program wrote letters explaining why they felt they deserved a new bike.

PHOTO BY JOHN PATSCH • STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## **6.** **Sponsoring Requires Money**

Buying and repairing bicycles and sponsoring trips and other activities takes money. The church could have a weekly bazaar every Saturday in its Fellowship Hall to raise money to support the "Follow the Leader Bicycle Club." But the church is not big enough. If it had a bazaar every Saturday, there would be no room in the building or around it or in the parking lot or anywhere nearby to have the bicycle club. But let's not give up yet.



## **7.** **Church not Big Enough: Be Innovative**

There is another church a half a mile away that has room to sponsor the bicycle club. But this other church has no money in its budget for this. (Someone please tell me why I am not surprised.) These two churches, for the sake of the kids, ought to be able to quit proselytizing and work together on this project. One church could raise money and the other church could run the bicycle club.



## 8. **Joint Venture (Partnership)**

The Joint Venture (or partnership) is an arrangement between Church A and Church B whereby Church A will run a **weekly bazaar** for the purpose of raising money to fund the **Follow the Leader Bicycle Club** at Church B, and Church B will run the Bicycle Club. This endeavor should work independently of the rest of the church and it should not inconvenience the minister or his staff or the church board or any church activity. It should not directly use either of the two churches' budget.

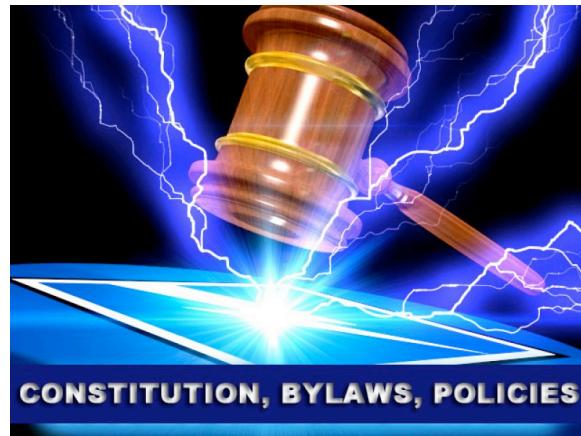


## 9. **Basics of Church Bylaws**

**Churches, not for profit organizations, are usually incorporated and governed by their bylaws.** The bylaws are the internal rules of a company or organization, setting out the form, manner or procedure in which a company or organization should be run. Corporate bylaws are drafted by a corporation's founders or directors under the authority of its Charter or Articles of Incorporation. [Wikipedia] [This varies a little from state to state.]

## **10.**

Bylaws widely vary from organization to organization, but generally cover topics such as how directors are elected, how meetings of directors are conducted, and what officers the organization will have and a description of their duties.



### 11.

Bylaws generally cannot be amended by an organization's Board of Directors; a super-majority vote of the membership, such as two-thirds present and voting or a majority of all the members, is usually required to amend bylaws.



### 12.

The bylaws contain the most fundamental principles and rules regarding the nature of the organization. It was once common practice for organizations to have two separate governing documents, a constitution and bylaws, but this has fallen out of favor because of the ease of use, increased clarity, and reduced chance of conflict inherent in a single, unified document. This single document, while properly referred to as the bylaws, is often referred to as a *constitution* or a *constitution and bylaws*. Unless otherwise provided by law, the organization does not formally exist until bylaws have been adopted. [Wikipedia]

### 13.

#### Setting Up a Partnership

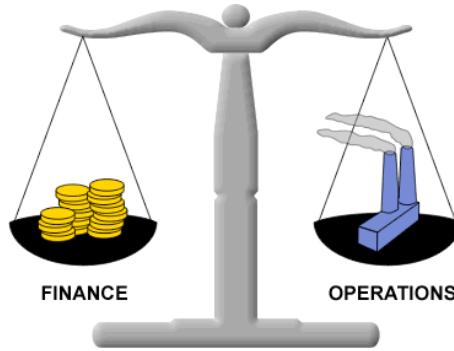
Church A and Church B will each amend (in a very similar manner) their respective Bylaws to set up a partnership called the "**Neighborhood Footprint**." The Neighborhood Footprint will be autonomous and will have its own governing board ("**Footprint Board**") composed of 3 members of Church A and 3 members of Church B elected by their respective congregations.



#### **14.**

The purpose is to operate a weekly bazaar to make enough to money to finance a bicycle club. The purpose (the bicycle club) should be important enough to merit the time and energy and sacrifice needed to properly stage, publicize, and maintain a weekly bazaar. After considering a cost-benefit analysis the type of event (weekly bazaar) should match the event (bicycle club) that it serves. The purpose is to facilitate good community relations with the weekly bazaar and the bicycle club.

**Due Diligence:**



#### **15.**

##### **Resolutions, Rules, & Procedure**

The authority of the Neighborhood Footprint will be set out in the partnership agreement which will be set out in the Bylaws of Church A and Church B. The Neighborhood Footprint may compose its own Resolutions, Rules, and Procedure as needed and shall not exceed its authority as set out in the Partnership Agreement.

[You might read "How to Create a Strong Business Partnership."]

<http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/how-to-create-a-strong-business-partnership.html>

[\*\*http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/how-to-create-a-strong-business-partnership.html\*\*](http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/how-to-create-a-strong-business-partnership.html)

**16.**

The Partnership Agreement will serve as the Bylaws of the Footprint Committee. The Partnership Agreement may later be amended by an agreement of Church A and Church B. Or either Church A or Church B may unilaterally nullify the agreement and dissolve the Partnership.

**17.**

**Bazaar Committee and Bicycle Committee**

The Neighborhood Footprint will form and clearly set out the authority of a **Bazaar Committee** to run the bazaar each week and a **Bicycle Committee** to run the **Follow the Leader Bicycle Club**. The Neighborhood Footprint will see that records are kept up-to-date and available in both churches' libraries where any church members may view and copy them without question or any explanation required.

**18.**

The Neighborhood Footprint will do its own banking, and may delegate any duty it has to either of its two committees. The Neighborhood Footprint will decide how to allocate operational costs for both ends of this endeavor. It will develop its own banking procedure.

**19.**

The Bazaar Committee will supervise the weekly bazaar. It will charge a fee to each vendor. It will create a budget. The Bazaar Committee will only bring in money by selling spaces to vendors. The Bazaar Committee will not be tasked with collecting entrance fees from patrons, collecting donated items, cooking, raffles or auctions, setting up tables, or anything that a vendor could do. Each vendor will handle its own setup and sales. The Bazaar Committee will supervise the setup, cleanup, traffic, & safety. It will delegate as much as possible.

**20.**

The Bazaar Committee will develop its procedure for firming up agreements with the vendors, communicating with vendors, etc. It may develop promotional material, email databases, and a procedure for advertising. It may develop its signage, flags or banners, and procedure for setting this up and taking it down. It may have badges or vests for vendors or monitors. It may distribute program or agenda or maps to patrons as they arrive. It may develop a method to evaluate each bazaar's success using measurable objectives. It will develop its own checklists and procedures as needed.

**21.**

The Bazaar Committee and the Bicycle Committee, under the direction of the Footprint Committee, will handle their respective duties.

**22.**

Having a weekly bazaar and sponsoring a bicycle club for kids would be good services for a community. The best way to get people in the community to attend church is to set a good example.

**Mark 16:15. He said to them, "Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation."**

**Be innovative.**

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